Complaint Mechanisms for Sexual Harassment of Women

3595. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has recommended to Government for setting up complaint mechanisms to deal with sexual harassment of women employees in work places;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) what steps are being taken to set up such a mechanism in all work places including added and affiliated schools too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had recommended that a Committee headed by the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development be constituted with Secretaries of the Ministry of Labour and Department of Personnel & Training and representatives of prominent voluntary organisations as members for monitoring the implementation of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 666-70 of 1992 Vishaka and Others *Vs.* State of Rajasthan and Others. The Department of Women and Child Development has already constituted the Committee as suggested by NHRC.

(c) As per the information available with the Department, most of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and some Public Sector Undertakings have set up Complaints Committee to deal with complaints of sexual harassment as per the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India in Visakha case.

Department of Secondary and Higher Education has informed that the Central Board of Secondary Education has issued instructions to the Heads of all the independent schools affiliated with them, Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya for taking necessary action regarding compliance of guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court regarding protection of women from sexual harassment. Similar instructions have been issued by the Kendriya Vidvalaya Sangathan to all its regional offices for constitution of Complaints Redressal Committees.